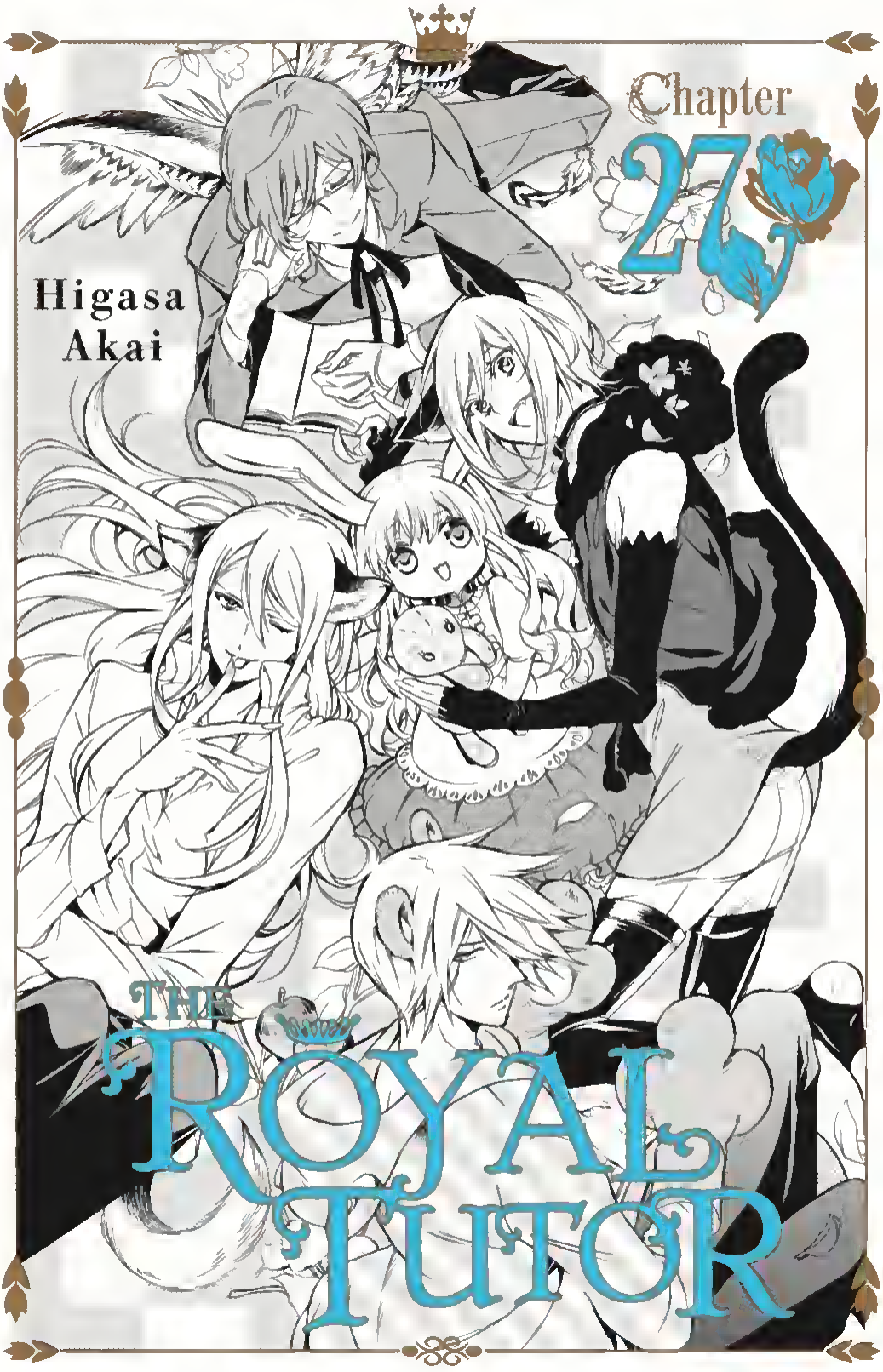

Chapter
27
Higasa
Akai
THE
ROYAL
TUTOR

Chapter 27

Adele's Friend

WAAAH ...!
THE ZOO!

HAAH.
GOOD LORD. SUCH A FUSS...
.....
LOOK, ADELE! THERE'S A BIRD OF INCREDIBLE COLORS OVER THERE!
GIDDY
きゃい
GIDDY
きゃい
AWW, SO WHAT? ADELE LOOKS HAPPY.
I CANNOT SIMPLY DISMISS THIS MATTER.
.....
WHY DO WE FIND OURSELVES AT THE ZOO?
AAAH!!!
IT ALL BEGAN ONE HOUR PRIOR...

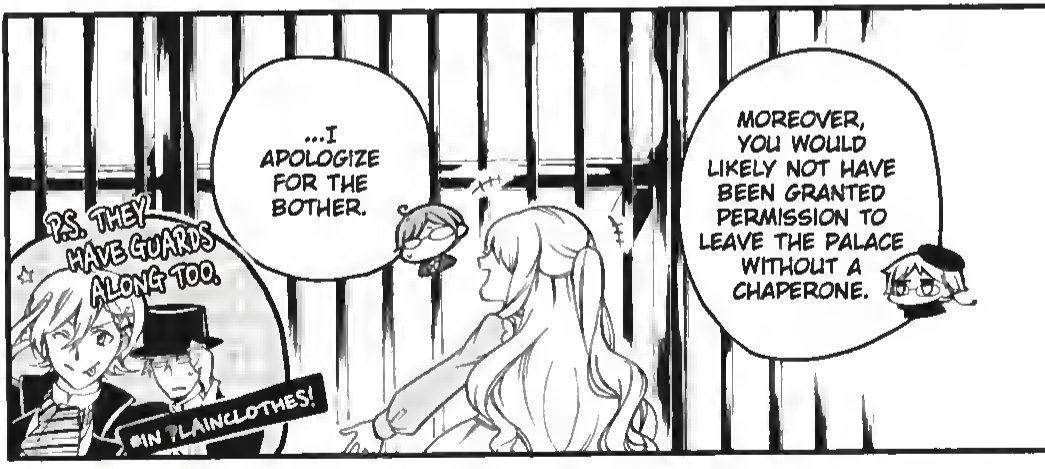
CLATTER
AAH!
THAT SCREAM... ADELE...
SLAM
ADELE!!
WH- WHAT'S WRONG!?

SPLAT
ベちょ
IT... IT'S...
SHH!
WHAT'S THIS? SHE STILL HAS THAT REVOLTING—
MGH!
!
.....
THE PICTURE...
...THAT PROFESSOR HEINE DREW FOR ME...
SHADOW... HE JUMPED ONTO THE TABLE AND... AND KNOCKED IT OVER...
WOOF!

HNN?
BAD SHADOW!
I'M NEVER, EVER...
...PLAYING WITH YOU AGAIN!
TO THE ZOO!
W-WAIT A MOMENT, ADELE.
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
I'LL FIND A NEW FRIEND!
HUH!?
TMP
TMP
TMP

THERE ARE LOTS OF ANIMALS! I'M GOING TO MAKE A NEW FRIEND WHO IS NOT SHADOW!
GRAND-MOTHER TOOK ME THERE!
HAAH?
UNLESS YOU TAKE A CARRIAGE, THE ZOO IS...
TEARY
YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO WALK THERE.
...THE NATIONAL ZOO IS A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE FROM THE PALACE.
...I REGRET TO INFORM YOU OF THIS, ADELE, BUT...
HAAH.
...IT COULDN'T BE...
...COULD IT...?
REALLY!?
PREPARE A CARRIAGE! WE SHALL GO TO THE ZOO WITH YOU, DEAR ADELE!
"WE"!?

GOOD LORD. YOU'VE GONE AND INCONVENIENCED MASTER AS WELL...
...NOT AT ALL. IN FACT, I AM INCLINED TO SAY THAT I AM PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE...
THAT PICTURE
—AND SO, WE ARRIVE AT THE PRESENT.
KAI. COME HERE...
LEONHARD.
BECKON
BECKON
I-I'M SORRY... I WAS UPSET, AND BEFORE I KNEW IT...
WHAT IS THE POINT OF GIVING IN TO ADELE'S TANTRUM AND BRINGING HER TO THE ZOO?


...I APOLOGIZE FOR THE BOTHER.
MOREOVER, YOU WOULD LIKELY NOT HAVE BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE PALACE WITHOUT A CHAPERONE.
P.S. THEY HAVE GUARDS ALONG TOO.
IN PLAINCLOTHES!

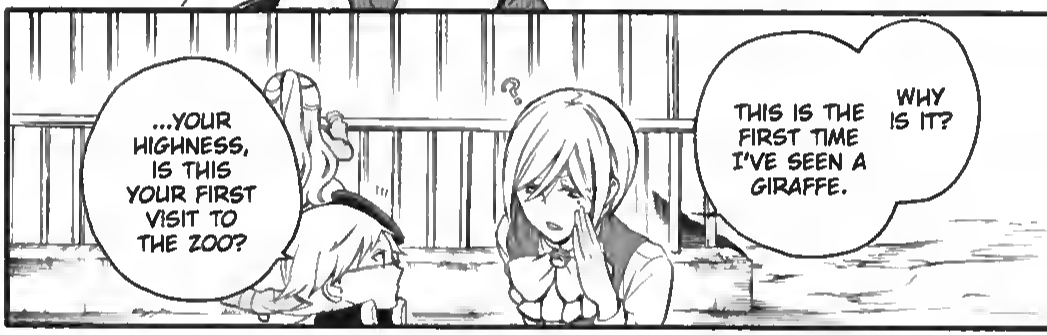
ROGER!
YES, MASTER!
FWIP
PRAY TAKE THE UTMOST CARE NOT TO REVEAL YOURSELVES.
ALTHOUGH THE ZOO IS FAR FROM CROWDED, IT IS CERTAINLY NOT DEVOID OF ORDINARY VISITORS.

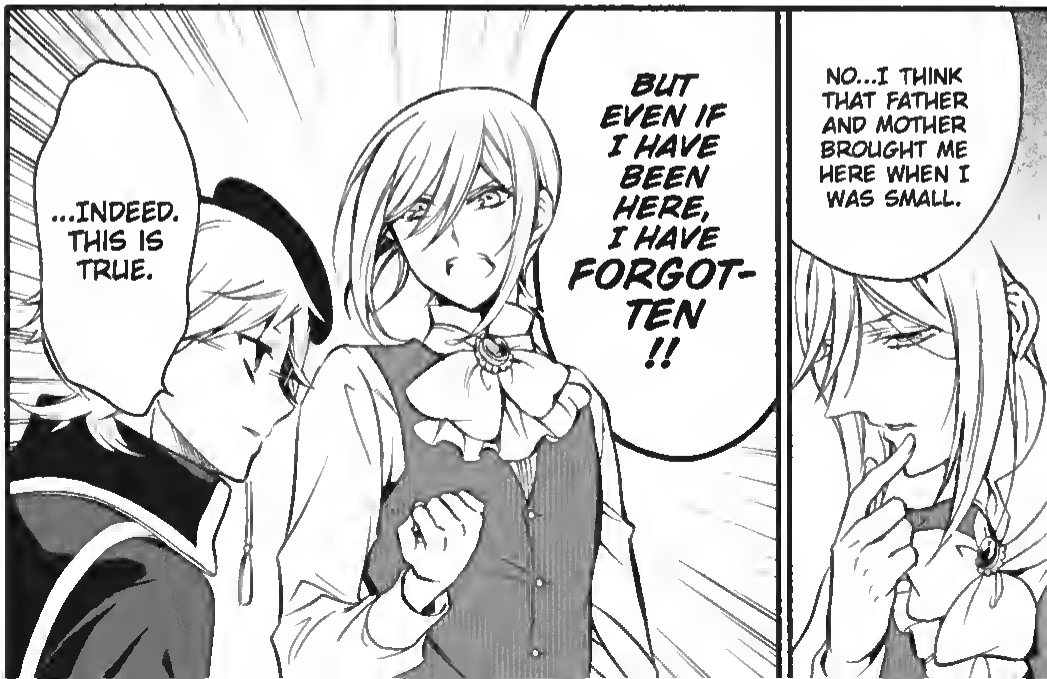
...DOES ADELE TRULY INTEND TO FIND A NEW PLAYMATE?
I BELIEVE THAT WAS MERELY HER TEMPER SPEAKING.
ENJOYING THIS VISIT TO THE ZOO WILL CALM HER, I'M SURE.
ALL RIGHT! THEN I SHALL SEE TO IT THAT ADELE HAS AS MUCH FUN AS POSSIBLE!
...ME TOO.
THE ZOO... FUN...
A SPLENDID IDEA. I TOO AM PLEASED FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH YOUR HIGHNESSES HOW TO DEAL WITH ANIMALS.
TEACH, YOU JUST HAVE TO TURN EVERYTHING INTO A LESSON, DON'T YOU?

WHAT DOES THIS SAY?
KAI?
NOOOO! SPARE ME SUCH A HEADACHE-INDUCING NOTION!
HOW PROFOUND, MASTER!
BUT OF COURSE. LEARNING REMAINS A PART OF LIFE UNTIL ONE DIES.
.....
....."FROM... THE EASTERN CONTINENT...
WOOOW!
..."WAS A GIFT FROM YAPAN, AN ISLAND NATION IN THE EAST, AS A SIGN OF FRIEND-SHIP."
"THIS BIRD... CALLED THE 'RED-CROWNED CRANE'...
AMAZING!
THEY ARE THE FRUITS OF FATHER'S DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS.
YOU SEE...
THERE ARE MANY MORE ANIMALS FROM OTHER LANDS HERE AS WELL.

...SPEAKING OF FATHER, ADELE, ARE YOU READY TO RETURN TO THE PALACE...? FATHER WILL BE THERE...
HMM~
PEEK
TEARY
じわ
!!
IT SEEMS THERE IS A GIRAFFE THIS WAY.
WOW! A GIRAFFE!
WANT TO GO SEE IT, ADELE!!?
HOW VERY TALL IT IS!
I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH THE GIRAFFE!

BUT WHY IS HIS NECK SO LONG?
WHY, THAT'S BE-CAUSE ...
BE-CAUSE ... .


WHY IS IT?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN A GIRAFFE.
...YOUR HIGHNESS, IS THIS YOUR FIRST VISIT TO THE ZOO?


NO...I THINK THAT FATHER AND MOTHER BROUGHT ME HERE WHEN I WAS SMALL.
BUT EVEN IF I HAVE BEEN HERE, I HAVE FORGOT-TEN !!
...INDEED. THIS IS TRUE.

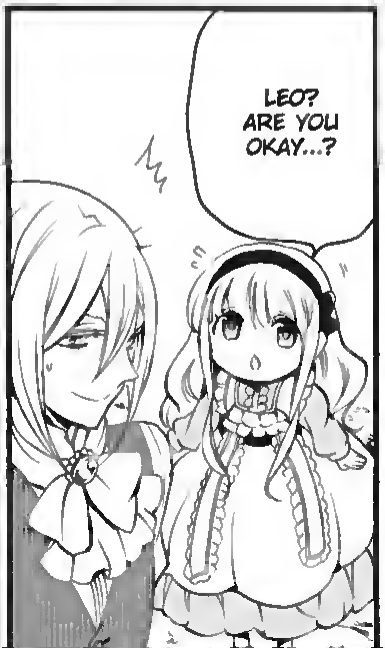
.....
OR, IT COULD BE THAT A MUTATED VARIETY OF GIRAFFE WITH LONG NECKS WAS BORN, AND THEIR KIND OUTLIVED THOSE WITH SHORTER NECKS. THERE ARE SEVERAL SUCH THEORIES.
ONE THEORY IS THAT THE GIRAFFE EVOLVED A LONGER NECK FOR THAT VERY PURPOSE.
NOW...
OBSERVE THE GIRAFFE, PLEASE. DO YOU SEE HOW HE EATS LEAVES FROM A TALL TREE?
TSK, TSK, LEONIE! EVOLUTION TAKES MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF YEARS. IT'S A DREADFULLY SLOW CHANGE.
AHA!!
STRETCH
THEN...THEN WHAT IF I WISHED TO EAT TORTE THAT WAS LEFT ON A TALL SHELF?
BADUM
BADUM
PRINCE LICHT, COME HERE FOR A MOMENT.
I SEE...
IF IT WERE THAT FAST, DON'T YOU THINK TEACH WOULD BE TALLER BY NOW?

HE'S TOO TALL TO PLAY WITH YOU INSIDE THE PALACE, IS HE NOT?
UMM...
AH, BUT ADELE...
...IT MAY PROVE DIFFICULT TO BE FRIENDS WITH A GIRAFFE.
GLOW
ぽぉっ
A BEAR?
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT A BEAR, THEN?
AHHAHAHA
HAHA!
YAY!
...WOULD BE UN-BEARABLY CUTE...
BUT HAVING A TEDDY BEAR AT HOME...
I'VE NEVER SEEN A REAL BEAR EITHER.

SNARL
*TEDDY BEAR

GROWL
O-OKAY, OKAY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET INTO FULL LESSON-MODE TODAY.
ITS NATURAL HABITAT IS ON THE EASTERN CONTINENT. AS AN OMNIVORE, IT USES ITS PAWS AND CLAWS TO CATCH PREY—
THIS IS A BLACK GRIZZLY BEAR, A SUBSPECIES OF THE BROWN BEAR.

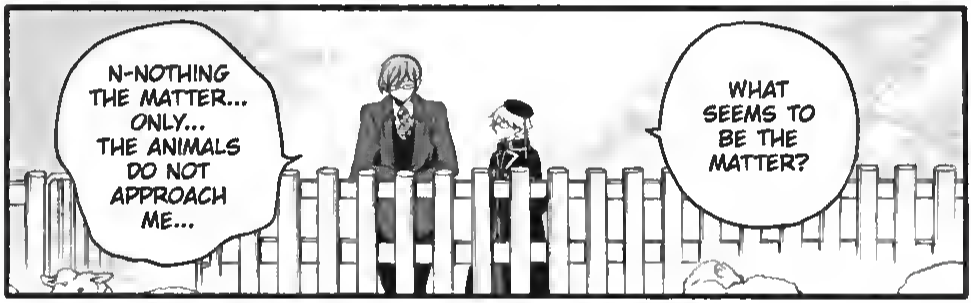
B-BUT BEARS ARE MUCH SCARIER THAN I IMAGINED!
LOOK. YOU HAVE WORRIED HER...
WERE YOU NOT GOING TO SEE TO PRINCESS ADELE'S AMUSEMENT?
THEN NEXT, TO LIFT YOUR HIGHNESS'S MOOD, LET US OBSERVE A SMALL AND GENTLE ANIMAL.
HMPH.


LEO? ARE YOU OKAY...?

きゅるん
FWLIFF
WH... WH...
...WHAT IS IT!!?
IT IS KNOWN AS A MARMOT.
A RELATIVE OF THE SQUIRREL.

PEEK
ひょこ
PEEK
PEEK
ひょこ
ひょこ
PRESS
のしっ
!
.....
THIS AREA IS A PETTING ZOO. YOU MAY TOUCH IT IF YOU PLEASE.
THEY ARE A COMMON SIGHT IN THE MOUNTAINS OF GRANZREICH.
...NGH...
CRNCH
CRNCH
CRNCH
CRNCH
カリ
カリ
カリ
カリ
IT'S EATING SOMETHING! IT'S SO...SO...FLUFFY! WAAAH, IT'S SO CUTE, WAAAH!
AAAAH! HEINEEE! MY LAP! IT'S IN MY LAAAP!
INTRIGUING ...

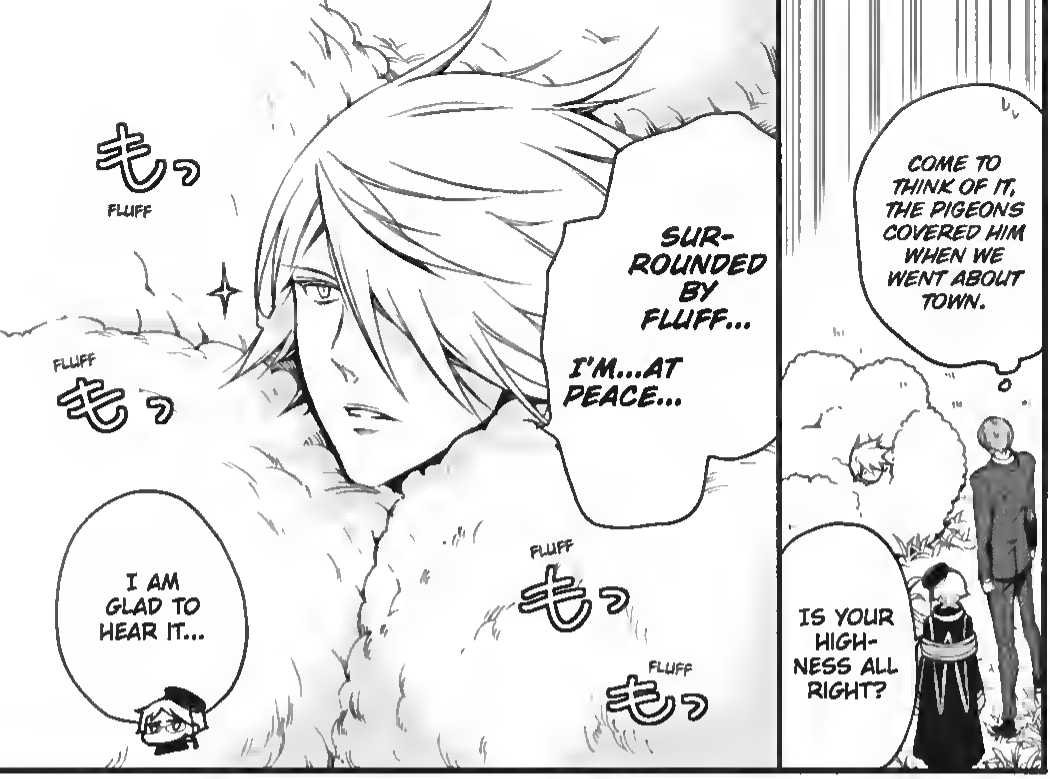
じっ
STARE
I BELIEVE I MAY LEAVE PRINCE LEONHARD BE NOW.

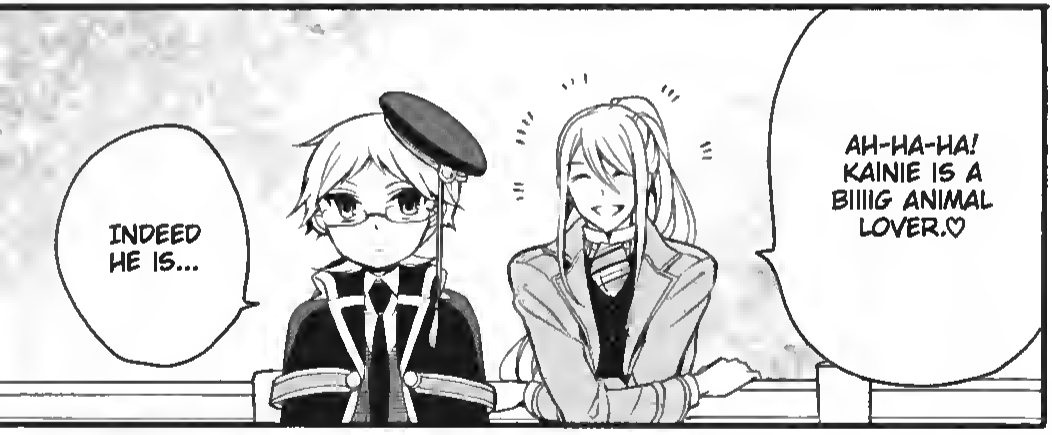

N-NOTHING THE MATTER... ONLY... THE ANIMALS DO NOT APPROACH ME...
WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE MATTER?

IT SEEMS TO HAVE HAD THE OPPOSITE EFFECT.
COME TO ME NOW...
THUS, I HAVE BEEN WILLING THEM TO COME TO ME...

PECK
AH.
BEGIN BY TOUCHING THE ADULT SHEEP RATHER THAN THE LAMBS, SO AS NOT TO PUT THE PARENTS ON GUARD—
FIRST, ONE MUST BE SURE TO APPROACH THEM FROM THE FRONT.
SUCH A SCARY FACE WILL NOT DO.
HEAVENS...
MASTER!!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
ONE COULD ALSO SAY THAT THEY TREAT HIM AS LOWER ON THE FOOD CHAIN.
ARE THEY, NOW...?
SAVED HIM.
SLUMP
HFF!
HUFF!
ONCE AGAIN, I HAVE FOUND NEW RESPECT FOR YOU...!!
YOU ARE UNMATCHED, MASTER... SO VIRTUOUS THAT EVEN ANIMALS ARE DRAWN TO YOU...

SHEEP... CAME UP TO ME...
SO MANY SHEEP...
YOU SEE? HE HAS ALREADY ...
AH, YES. ANIMALS DO FLOCK TO KAI.
LET US OBSERVE HOW HE HANDLES THEM.
WHEN IT COMES TO THOSE OF WHOM ANIMALS ARE FOND, OUGHTN'T PRINCE KAI BE THE FIRST TO CROSS OUR MINDS?
GULP...
THIS IS SOMETHING BEYOND MERE FONDNESS...


もっ
FLUFF
SUR-ROUNDED BY FLUFF...
I'M...AT PEACE...
FLUFF
もっ
FLUFF
もっ
FLUFF
もっ
I AM GLAD TO HEAR IT...
COME TO THINK OF IT, THE PIGEONS COVERED HIM WHEN WE WENT ABOUT TOWN.
IS YOUR HIGH-NESS ALL RIGHT?


AH-HA-HA! KAINIE IS A BIIIIG ANIMAL LOVER.♡
INDEED HE IS...

BY THE WAY, PRINCE LICHT... WHY HAVE YOU DONE NOTHING BUT WATCH?
EH?

COULD IT BE THAT YOU ARE UNCOMFORTABLE AROUND ANIMALS?
NOW THAT I CONSIDER IT, I HAVE NEVER WITNESSED YOU SO MUCH AS PETTING SIR SHADOW.
.....
WELL, I...
I'M TOO OLD TO BE GETTING EXCITED OVER ANIMALS, AND...
MABL
MABL
GOD, FINE! IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIKE THAT— OH, I'LL PET THEM, ALL RIGHT!!
LEAP
WELCOME BACK, PRINCE LICHT.
HAFF!
HAFF!
HFF!
HAFF!
HAAH!
HUFF!

YOU MAKE IT SOUND AS THOUGH YOU FIND HUMANS PREDICTABLE.
HA HA!
EH, TO AN EXTENT, THEY ARE.
WHY WOULD I WANT TO SPEND TIME WITH CREATURES THAT DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I SAY?
GIVE ME A BREAK. ANIMALS ARE SO... UNPREDICT-ABLE.
HEH HEH.
I HAVE MÄDCHEN FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD UNDER MY SPELL...SUCH A DECADENT SOUL, I AM.
PREDICTING OTHERS' EMOTIONS IS ANOTHER OF THE STAPLE TECHNIQUES OF A SEX SYMBOL.
TEACH'S "IGNORING ME" SKILL GROWS STRONGER...
I SWEAR HE'S UNCOMMONLY COLD WITH ME...
WAIT JUST ONE MOMENT.
NOW, YOU WILL FIND THAT AN ANIMAL COMPANION CAN BE QUITE ENJOYABLE.
HMM? HOW NICE.

I HAVE PURCHASED ANIMAL FEED.
SHALL WE FEED THEM TOGETHER?
YAAAAAY!
EAT UP!
THEY'RE EATING IT!
FLUFFY WUFFY ...
GLOOM
...KH...

HAAH...
HAAH... IF YOU INSIST.
...
WELL, PRINCE LICHT?
OH MY FLEECE! BUT LOOK AT THIS COOL, SEXY GENT!
...COULD YOU HURRY UP AND EAT...?
ドゥクン THROB
CURSES... TO THINK THAT I WOULD LOSE EVEN TO LICHT...
O-OH GOD! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THESE SHEEP!? HELP, BRUNIE!!
LISTEN TO ME, YOU BUMBLING BROTHER!!
CROWD やら
EEEEE!
EEEEE!
CROWD やら

HOW TYPICAL OF PRINCE LICHT.
EVEN ANIMALS SENSE HIS PHERO-MONES.
HMPH.
TEACH... I WON'T FORGET THAT, I SWEAR TO GOD...
I'M GOING TO FEED THE BUNNIES TOO!!
TMP TMP
AH, WAIT! I'LL GO WITH YOU!
!!
CHOMP
ADELE! ARE YOU HURT?
SNATCH
OUCHIE!
LET ME SEE YOUR HAND.
URGH...

HMM...IT WAS BUT A LITTLE NIP. YOUR FINGER SHOULD BE FINE.
...SHADOW NEVER BITES.
THAT GAVE ME A FRIGHT.
.....
ADELE!
ポン PAT
ポン PAT

SEEING AS WE ARE ALREADY HERE...
...LET US FIND YOU LOTS AND LOTS OF FRIENDS!
...OKAY...!

THE DAY GROWS LATE.
SHALL WE MAKE OUR WAY HOME?
ZEKE! COME!
TROT
TROT
HFF!
HFF!
ZEKE!

KACHIK
TODAY WAS LOTS OF FUN!
LET'S GO AGAIN, ADELE!
...OKAY.
ADELE?
.....
STOP

YOU'RE STILL UPSET?
'COS I...
...I DON'T...
...WANNA GO HOME.
I...
I WAS SO MEAN TO SHADOW!
I SAID I'D FIND A NEW FRIEND.
I TOLD HIM I WOULDN'T PLAY WITH HIM ANY-MORE.
.....!

SNIFFLE
I DON'T WANT TO PLAY WITH ANYONE ELSE.
I WANT TO PLAY WITH SHADOW!
BUT I MADE SHADOW HATE ME...
...SO I CAN'T...
...LISTEN, ADELE.
SHADOW CAN'T TALK, YOU KNOW?
HIC!
HIC!
SO... I DOUBT HE UNDERSTOOD WHAT YOU SAID...

THE PRIN-CESS...
...MUST LOOK TO HER OWN HEART.
PRINCESS ADELE.
SIR SHADOW WISHES TO SEE YOU.
N... NUH-UH... I DON'T BELIEVE YOU...
NO? THEN WHAT, PRAY TELL, WOULD YOU MAKE OF THAT?

SH...
SHAD-
OW...
もじっ
FIDGET
.....
LEAP

SHAD-
OW!

YOU'RE MY VERY BEST FRIEND!
I'M SORRY!
I'M SORRY, SHADOW!
OH... YOUR FAVORITE TOY...?
YOU WANT TO PLAY WITH ME?
CLUNK

YOU BROKE YOUR TREASURE?
BECAUSE YOU RUINED MINE?
ARF!
SHAD-OOOW!
OH, ADELE... THANK GOOD-NESS.
.....

WHISPER
YOU BROKE THE TOY, DIDN'T YOU?
SO SHE'D MAKE UP WITH SHADOW?
...HEY, TEACH.
I NEED TO ASK YOU SOME-THING.
WAVE WAVE
WHAT, THEN SHADOW HONESTLY BROKE IT?
BUT HE'S A DOG!
SORRY SORRY!
HMPH!
I WOULD NEVER DO SOMETHING SO HORRID.
YOU WOUND ME!!
...HAD IT NOT BEEN MOVED, THE PRINCESS COULD VERY WELL HAVE BEEN IN DANGER...
HYPOTHETI-CALLY, IF IT WAS LEFT NEXT TO A LIT CANDLE...
...APPEARED TO HAVE A SMALL SCORCH MARK ON ITS CANVAS.
...BUT NOW THAT YOU BRING IT UP, THE CAUSE OF THEIR SPAT— THAT IS, THE PORTRAIT I DREW...
YOU COULDN'T BE SUG-GESTING THAT...
Y...

SNORT
ハンン
?

H-HE'S A HERO!!!
PLOD
PLOD
FROM THEN ON, THE PRINCES TOOK TO ADDRESSING THEIR PET DOG AS "SIR SHADOW," WITNESSES SAY.
A-ARE YOU HUNGRY?
SIR SHADOW?
WOOF!
HOW MUCH DOES THAT DOG KNOW?

♦ To be continued in the next chapter of The Royal Tutor ♦

The Royal Tutor Chapter 27

Higasa Akai

Translation: Amanda Haley • Lettering: Abigail Blackman

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